

The FCC along with the Federal Elections Commission has a responsibility to the American Public. This has been a dirty campaign and we have another example of it in Sinclair Broadcasting. Its decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear and outrageous example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. The FCC is supposed to be representing the people and not just corporate interests. This is not only a test of fairness, but a test of the integrity of your agency.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.